

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1.     *(cancelled)*
8.     *(new)* A method for the detection of sepsis in an individual suspected of having sepsis, the method comprising:
  - a) obtaining a plasma or serum sample from the individual;
  - b) contacting said sample with an antibody specific for pro-atrial natriuretic factor (pro-ANF) and
  - c) determining the level of pro-ANF, wherein an increased level of pro-ANF as compared to healthy individuals is indicative of sepsis.
9.     *(new)* The method of claim 8 further comprising the determination of at least one other indicator of sepsis.
10.    *(new)* The method of claim 9 wherein said at least one other indicator is procalcitonin.